The Later of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

24 May 1978

Dear Betty,

Thanks for sending along the Ohio State University Monthly with the article on my visit there in April. I enjoyed meeting with the student body and faculty at OSU and found them most receptive to my talk.

Thanks again.

Yours,

STANSFIELD TURNER

Ms. Betty Southard Murphy National Labor Relations Board Washington, D.C. 20570 ADMIRAL Stansfield Turner, director of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency, visited the campus last month to discuss current CIA policy and that organization's role in national policy-making.

Meeting with press, radio and TV representatives prior to his speech, Admiral Turner adroitly defended the CIA policy of sharing with the public those reports that would not impinge on national security. He said that declassification in the public interest had many reports available to public scrutiny, admitted that some were not declassified because of jeopardizing CIA operations.

The career Navy officer was appointed head of the CIA in March of 1977. He graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1946, served a year at sea before entering Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar.

His long Navy career includes holding command of a mine sweeper, a destroyer and a guided missile frigate. He was promoted to rear admiral in 1970 and that year assumed command of a carrier task force group of the Sixth Fleet while serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Independence. He later directed the systems analysis division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Adm. Turner became the 36th president of the Naval War College with the rank of vice admiral. In 1974 he was named commander of the U.S. Second Fleet and the NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic. He served in that capacity until August of 1975, when he was named commander in chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe, with headquarters in Naples, Italy, with the rank of admiral.

Asked about the use of academic scholars for CIA projects, Adm. Turner said he felt relationships between the CIA and faculty members should be no different than any other relationship a professor may enter into.

He reaffirmed that Ohio State was not one of the campuses where actual drug testing had taken place under the MK-Ultra project during the 1950s and 1960s. He said that Ohio State officials did not know that faculty members here were involved in some nontesting phases of the research.

It was after the CIA released declassified portions of the reports stemming from the project that University administrators learned Ohio State, along with nearly 80 other institutions, had any involvement in the research with drugs on humans.

While pointing out that the CIA was trying to be more open, Adm. Turner also emphasized that "When you





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make a confidential relationship, you cannot disclose everything." Even after years have passed, he explained, confidentiality has to be maintained.

"There is no way we can give the public total scrutiny," he said. But he pointed out, the establishment of oversight committees provides Congress with the opportunity to keep in touch with activities on the nation's intelligence agencies.

He held little brief for former CIA operatives who have written "inside" books on their activities with the agency. Most of the former operatives did not consult with CIA officials prior to publication of their books. As a result, confidential materials exposed are believed to have endangered existing intelligence operations.

Many of these exposes were based on complaints of CIA procedures. The oversight committees established, said Adm. Turner, were provided the powers to deal with such complaints, but "I have yet to find one whistle-blower who has gone through the oversight procedures."

The CIA's history began in World War II when President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). In 1945 President Harry S. Truman disbanded the OSS and established the Central Intelligence Group.

In 1947 the National Security Act of 1947 established the National Security Council and replaced the CIG with the Central Intelligence Agency.

In the last two years, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence were established by Congress to provide oversight on the nation's intelligence operations.

As Director of Central Intelligence, Adm. Turner is the primary adviser to the President and the National Security Council on national foreign intelligence matters. The executive order issued by President Jimmy Carter last January gives the Director of Central Intelligence authority to develop the National Foreign Intelligence Program budget and to direct assignments of all Intelligence Community collection efforts.

The Intelligence Community consists of the CIA, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Offices within the Department of Defense responsible for collection of specialized foreign intelligence, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, and the intelligence elements of the military services, the FBI, the Departments of Treasury and Energy, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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